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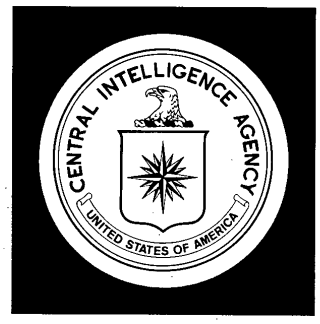

The President's Daily Brief

6 August 1973

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

6 August 1973

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

In Cambodia, there was a general decline in the level of military activity in the Phnom Penh area over the weekend, but insurgent forces remain in position to renew the fighting. *(Page 1)*

The North Atlantic Council has agreed to use the US paper, which was submitted on July 27, as the basis for developing an allied position for the force reduction talks this fall. *(Page 2)*

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25X1

25X1 [redacted] Israel [redacted]

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[redacted] *(Page 3)*

[redacted] USSR [redacted]

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[redacted] *(Page 4)*

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Notes on USSR-Cuba, the latest Soviet space probe to Mars, and Greece appear on *Page 5*.

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CAMBODIA

There was a general decline in the level of military activity in the Phnom Penh area over the weekend, but insurgent forces remain in position to renew the fighting. Government troops succeeded in reopening a stretch of Route 1 some five miles east of the capital, easing at least temporarily the threat to the city from this direction.

The only exception to the general lull has been west of the city where enemy forces overran several key government positions some three miles from Pochentong airfield on August 5. Defenses in this area had been weakened by the diversion of government forces to Route 1.

The government has begun airlifting into Phnom Penh some five battalions of troops from the western provinces. Although Routes 4 and 5 remain open to government supply convoys, the further concentration of troops in the capital area is bound to weaken the government's efforts to keep these roads free of insurgent activity. An enemy message of August 4 revealed plans to resume harassing attacks against Route 4 in the near future.

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FORCE REDUCTIONS

The North Atlantic Council agreed on Friday to use the US paper, which was submitted on July 27, as the basis for developing an allied position for the force reduction talks this fall.

A number of points were raised, however, that will require lengthy consideration before an allied negotiating position finally emerges. The British representative thought the overall US goal of a "common ceiling" on NATO and Warsaw Pact ground forces would necessitate a second phase of negotiations, which he believes is not in the allied interest. The Dutch representative wants a second phase, which would involve the reduction of indigenous European forces, and believes it should be arranged before the end of the first phase. The Turks and Greeks raised questions about the effect on NATO's flanks of a force reduction agreement along the lines of the US paper. The Turkish representative thought that as the US proposal stands, it would increase the threat to the flanks; he suggested the addition of language to the effect that reductions would be "without prejudice to the undiminished security of the alliance as a whole."

The allies must also decide how actually to begin negotiating with the Soviets. Some, including the US, favor presenting an allied proposal early in the talks. The British want a more cautious approach, allowing time to sound out the Soviets. The Canadians cautioned that perhaps the only way the allies could stimulate a meaningful dialogue with the Soviets would be to table a proposal at the outset.

NATO's Senior Political Committee will begin further work on the allied position on August 7.

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ISRAEL

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YEMEN (SANA) - USSR

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NOTES

USSR-Cuba: A Kresta class cruiser, a Kanin class destroyer, and an E-II class cruise missile submarine arrived in Havana on August 4. They will also call at other Cuban ports. Based on previous Soviet deployments in the Caribbean, the ships could remain in the area for as long as three months.

USSR: The Soviets launched another space probe to Mars yesterday. The probe--referred to by TASS as Mars 6--was launched from Tyuratam aboard an SL-12 space booster. Three Mars probes have been launched in the past 15 days. All three are performing satisfactorily and should arrive in the vicinity of the planet next March.

Greece: The identities and intentions of the Arab terrorists who shot up the Athens international air terminal yesterday, killing three and wounding over 50, are still being investigated. As in other recent terrorist incidents, Palestine resistance spokesmen in Beirut have denied responsibility.

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